

ARMING SHIPS AMOUNTS TO DECLARATION OF WAR SAYS THE BERLIN PRESS

Wilson Assailed But Arming of Ships Goes Steadily Ahead—Sir Sam Hughes Reaches New York On Secret Mission Predicting That War Will Come Within a Few Days—Germany Now Starving

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

WASHINGTON, March 11.—With press reports from Germany that the German government will look upon the arming of American ships and the despatch of these into the war zone as a declaration of war on the part of the United States, the work of mounting guns on the American liners and freighters is proceeding. It is not concealed here that the impression is entertained in official circles that the country is closer to war today than it has ever been without entering actual hostilities.

Drastic steps are being taken to prepare for war and to protect American lives at sea whether or not eventualities should come.

WILL SHOOT ON SIGHT

The mere appearance of a German submarine, through the raising of its periscope in the presence of an armed American merchant vessel would entitle the ship, according to the department of state, to take all measures for the protection of the vessel and those aboard.

The presumption is, the state department holds, that the purpose of the U-boat is hostile. Under the ruling announced today, the merchant vessel could fire on the submarine the moment it is sighted, without being considered as taking aggressive action.

This view is based on the declared intention of the Germans to sink at sight, within certain zones, all vessels, neutral as well as belligerent, whether they are passenger or freight vessels and whether or not they carry contraband.

PREPARING FOR THE WORST

Guns and gunners are being placed aboard merchant vessels as fast as possible.

The navy yards of the country have been ordered to equip themselves immediately so as to place the nation in a state of "armed neutrality." President Wilson has issued the necessary orders.

CANADIAN ORGANIZER IN NEW YORK

Sir Sam Hughes, former minister of militia for Canada, the man who organized the Canadian training camps and put the first Canadian army into the field in France, is in New York, on a secret mission. While the Canadian organizer declines to discuss his presence in the country, he freely predicts that the United States will be in the war within a comparatively few days.

Brigadier-General Kuhn, president of the Army War College, in a statement issued yesterday, gave his opinion that while the nation is now preparing for war industrially and is well on its way towards a mobilization of its resources, it is not preparing as it should be in a military way. He believed, however, he said, that the nation is now aroused to the danger into which it has allowed itself to drift.

GERMANY IS STARVING

That Germany is not in a position to carry on the present war much longer is the opinion of General Kuhn, who says that the Germans are practically starving, with their surplus supplies gone and ready now to listen to almost any terms of peace that will fall short of absolute acknowledgment of defeat.

Yesterday Secretary Lansing issued a categorical denial of the statement made the day previous by the German foreign secretary, Doctor Zimmermann, who has stated that he was without knowledge of American opinion and not in a position to say whether the United States did or did not desire war.

There has been no suspension of communication between the United States and Germany, as Doctor Zimmermann claims, says Secretary Lansing. Following the first few days after the break in diplomatic relations, the delays of the censorship established have been eliminated and all German business has been expedited.

BERLIN PRESS IS BITTER

Press despatches from Berlin report that the German press is uniting in severe criticisms of President Wilson, singling out for especial comment the references made by the President to the status of Alsace Lorraine in his talk with the Democratic caucus committee.

The Vossische Zeitung says: "President Wilson has now abandoned the last remnants of political reserve and comes out in the open as what he has always been at heart, proclaiming himself the friend of England."

AMERICA TO BE BLAMED

The Tagliche Rundschau declares: "The arming of merchant ships under the authority of the American government means war. We desire at this time to establish the fact that the United States becomes the attacking party the moment she sends guns to sea to be used against German submarines."

Reporting from the City of Mexico, Minister Fletcher says that he is convinced that President Carranza intends to preserve the neutrality of Mexico in the event of war. Secretary Zimmermann's instructions to Minister von Eckhardt to arrange an alliance with Mexico to attack the United States the day war between Germany and America broke out were delivered to von Eckhardt, reports Mr. Fletcher, but the instructions were not carried out.

BERNSTORFF AT LAST AT EUROPEAN PORT

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) LONDON, March 10.—Count von Bernstorff and his party of the German embassy at Washington arrived at Christiansand today, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Agency.

It was reported last night that owing to a fierce blizzard at sea the party would go direct to Copenhagen.

SWANZY ESTATE OVER HALF MILLION

The value of the estate left by the late F. M. Swanzy, who died last week, is \$680,000, according to the petition for probate of the will filed in the circuit court yesterday by the widow, Mrs. Julie Judd Swanzy. The petition named Nora Hastings Swanzy and Rosmond Swanzy as the other heirs and asked the letter of administration be issued to William H. Baird.

PRESIDENT RECOVERS FROM SERIOUS COLD

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) WASHINGTON, March 10.—President Wilson has virtually recovered from his cold. He remained in his room today, but was able to attend to business, though making no engagements.

FREIGHTER OHIO SUNK

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) NEW YORK, March 10.—It is reported in shipping circles that the freighter Ohio, flying a French flag, has been sunk.

NATIONAL BANK CALL

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) WASHINGTON, March 10.—The national bank statements were called to day as of March 5.

Submarine Sinks Relief Ship Unwarned and Shells Occupants of Lifeboats After They Launch Craft In Bad Sea

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

LONDON, March 11.—Attacking without warning a neutral steamer carrying relief supplies to starving Belgians, and perhaps killing American members of the crew and persisting in the barbarous efforts to murder, even when the nature of the relief ship had been ascertained, by shelling the small boats with the members of the crew aboard, a German submarine yesterday reached almost the limit of savagery, according to the report brought in by one of the American survivors.

The vessel sunk in the war zone was the Norwegian steamer Storstad, of 3561 tons, from Buenos Aires, with a full cargo of corn, purchased by the American Commission for Belgian Relief. Only thirteen members of the crew, including one American, have landed and it is feared that the others have perished.

The story told by John Christian, the American survivor, is that the vessel was attacked without warning, being shelled by a submarine at close range. Hurried signals were hoisted, informing the commander of the submersible that the vessel was carrying relief supplies and sailing under the guarantees of safety of the German admiralty and the British blockaders. With this the shelling ceased, but only to allow the firing of a torpedo against the steamer, which had come to a stop. The torpedo blew in many of the plates and the vessel commenced to sink.

The sea was running high and the small boats were launched with difficulty. In the midst of the attempts to launch the small boats, the submarine recommenced firing and the small boats and their occupants were shelled for several minutes, until the near approach of a British destroyer forced the submarine to dive. The destroyer picked up the crew of only one of the small boats, the others having been driven off in the storm or sunk.

JAPAN WILL BE GERMANY'S ALLY

Such Will Be Result of United States Entering War, Says German Statesman

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) BERLIN, March 11.—Doctor Heckscher, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the reichstag, in a statement yesterday says that the participation of the United States in the war will result in a realignment of the Powers. The United States and Great Britain, from being hereditary enemies, will become allies, against which there will be a combination of Russia, Germany and Japan.

"Japan's life interest requires that she draw nearer to Germany and away from Great Britain, with whom she is at present allied," said Doctor Heckscher. "When that day comes, we of Germany will be able to stand calmly aside and look on, while Japan must find the path that will lead it into the United States."

TEN YEARS' SENTENCE FOR BRITISH PLOTTER

"Trial By Ordeal" Suggested By the Lawyer For Defense

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) LONDON, March 10.—In an eloquent speech summing up the case of Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, charged with conspiring against the life of Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson of the British war council, S. H. Riza, a Mohammedan lawyer, made a strong plea today in defense of the woman, her two daughters and her son-in-law, who are involved in the alleged accomplices.

He startled the court and the spectators by suggesting the "trial by ordeal," referring to the medieval form of judicial procedure where accused persons were tested by physical torture.

He attempted to impress the jury with the alleged failure of the government to produce a certain witness against the four defendants.

At the conclusion of the trial, Mrs. Wheeldon, her daughter, Mrs. Winifred Mason, and the latter's husband, Alfred George Mason, were found guilty of conspiring to murder George Henderson. The other daughter, Harriet Ann Wheeldon, was acquitted. The mother was given ten years, Mason seven and his wife five, in penal servitude.

ELECTION IN MEXICO —CARRANZA CERTAIN

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) CITY OF MEXICO, March 11.—Today is election day in Mexico and a President is to be chosen by the electors under the terms of the new constitution recently drawn up. This will be the first authorized election since 1914, since which time there has been a succession of Presidents.

Carranza, the chief chief in the present administration, is certain of election to the presidency.

FRENCH MEDALS FOR BLOCKADE RUNNERS

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) BORDEAUX, March 11.—The captains of the American ships Orleans and Rochester, the only two American vessels to brave the German submarine blockade and sail from New York since the policy of unrestricted submarine warfare came into force, were yesterday presented with medals by the municipality to commemorate their feat of blockade running.

The president of the chamber of commerce, in presenting the medals, said: "Heretofore we have called you 'Our American cousins.' Hereafter we will call you 'Our American brothers.'"

GUTHRIE PRAISED AS PEACEMAKER BY TOKIO PRESS

THE late George W. Guthrie, American ambassador to Japan, whose memory is being eulogized in Tokio



(Special Cablegram to Nippon Jiji.)

TOKIO, March 11.—The Emperor and the Empress have sent a message to President Wilson, expressing sympathy upon the death of Ambassador Guthrie yesterday. The funeral services over the ambassador, it is decided, are to be held next Tuesday in the Tsukiji Church.

The body will be sent to the United States on a United States warship within a few days.

PRAISED BY PRESS AND PUBLIC OF JAPAN

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) TOKIO, March 11.—The body of the late Ambassador Guthrie was yesterday escorted to the American embassy by a troop of Japanese cavalry, through streets lined with bareheaded people, paying honor to the remains. The Japanese press and public are paying all honor to the memory of the dead ambassador, the papers containing praise of the efforts made by Mr. Guthrie to cement the ties of friendship between Japan and the United States.

FUNDS LACKING FOR PROBE OF FOOD COST

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) WASHINGTON, March 9.—Lack of funds will prevent any federal investigation of the high cost of food. The investigation ordered by the president cannot be carried out, as the \$50,000 appropriation failed to pass Congress.

YARROWDALE PRISONERS ENTITLED TO DAMAGES

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) WASHINGTON, March 11.—The state department has decided that the Americans taken to Germany as prisoners of war aboard the captured British steamer Yarrowdale are entitled to demand damages from Germany after the war, claims which the state department will present on request.

AMERICA JOINS JAPAN IN LOAN

International Agreement Reached and China Will Get Fifty Million Dollars

(Special Cablegram to Hawaii Shingo)

TOKIO, March 11.—It was announced yesterday that an international loan, participated in by Japan and the United States, is to be made to China, to an amount of fifty million dollars.

Yesterday the navy department announced the plans for a new super-dreadnought, of 32,000 tons, which is to be laid down next month.

Motoyuki Negoro, of Hawaii, who recently arrived in Japan, yesterday announced his candidacy for parliament. He will join the radical wing in opposition to the Terauchi government.

HUNGER AND TYPHUS COME TO HOLLAND

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) AMSTERDAM, March 11.—The distress in Holland is increasing rapidly and is now widespread throughout the kingdom. This is due chiefly to a lack of food, due to the restrictions placed upon imports by the British blockade on the one hand and by the German submarine blockade on the other. The recent sinking of five Dutch ships and the decision of the ship owners not to send others out into the war zone has intensified the situation.

An epidemic of typhus fever, brought into Holland from Germany and Belgium, is finding many victims among the impoverished countrymen.

LAND BOARD CANNOT CHECK HILO AMBITION

Lacking Public Site Will Lease Land For Auditorium

HILO, March 7.—Owing to the opposition of the land board to granting a lease on the Kamehameha Avenue lot applied for by the Hilo Basketball League for twenty-one years, the trustees of the league at a meeting held on Monday determined to go ahead with the plan for putting up a gymnasium and auditorium for Hilo on private property to be secured, if possible, under a long time lease.

A committee consisting of President Y. E. Colville, Vice-President R. T. Forrest and Secretary J. R. Zimmermann was appointed by resolution to conduct the negotiations for the lot which has been offered the league under a lease for fifteen years.

The building, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$7,000, including the stage, will seat about 1000 people comfortably and will also be fitted as a gymnasium and for basketball games. The floor will be specially built for dancing and the officers of the league are making it the center of social activities for Hilo.

ZEPPELIN'S WORK IS HIGHLY EULOGIZED

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) BERLIN, March 10.—The German press is filled with appreciative comment and praise of the achievements of Count Ferdinand Zeppelin, who died Thursday. His achievements are extolled and the press says that he shared popularity with General von Hindenburg.

BRITISH SMASH ANOTHER HOLE IN GERMAN LINES ALONG THREE-MILE FRONT

Elaborate Trench System, With Many Machine Guns and Prisoners Taken—Town of Irls Occupied—French Also Defeat Teutons On Two Fronts, Driving Back Heavy Assaults and Gaining New Positions

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

NEW YORK, March 11.—Following a day of intense battling, in which the contending forces came hand-to-hand along a wide front, the British operating on the Ancre section emerged again as victors, having advanced their lines in some places a mile. The Germans lost heavily in prisoners and machine guns, while the casualty lists on both sides are severe.

The British, following a preliminary bombardment, advanced along a three-mile front, sweeping the defenders from the first series of trenches and occupying new lines with comparative ease. The center of the advance was directed against the fortified town of Irls, a mile east of Miramont, before which the Germans had prepared duplicate barriers of barbed wire and elaborate trench and redoubt defenses.

FIGHTING WAS BLOODY

These defenses had not been wholly reduced by the British artillery and the fighting before them was bloody. The Germans brought up reinforcements in the effort to hold out, these new troops driving through the British barrage, losing heavily. At the end of the day, the positions and their defenders were in British hands and the town of Irls was occupied. The British spoils included many score of machine guns and more prisoners than have been taken on any one day since the advance on the Ancre was commenced.

FRENCH REPULSE ATTACKS

Yesterday saw heavy fighting between the French and Germans on the French section of the western line, the Germans attacking in both the Champagne and the Verdun fronts. The Champagne attacks were launched by the Germans in an effort to regain some of the ground taken by the French between Butte du esnil and Maison de Champagne. The first rush of the Germans carried them into the French front lines, where they were immediately counterattacked by the French and either driven back or killed.

CROWN PRINCE BEATEN

In the Verdun sector the Germans attempted to recover important positions north of Gaurieres wood. Here, as in the Champagne, the first attack proved successful, but the Teutons were unable to hold the ground won and retired with heavy losses.

Elsewhere along the line, the French continued their raids, penetrating German trenches and taking positions east of Armacourt, noting as far as the third line and taking prisoners near Crouy.

WILL BUILD BIG WOODEN FLEET

Wooden Motor Boats For Harbor Patrols Also Wanted—Steel Construction Too Slow

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The federal shipping board is now seeking for ways whereby a vast fleet of wooden ships for the United States can be built at once, it being an impossibility at this time to lay down any large number of new steel ships. The plan is to build a great fleet of ships of between 3000 and 3600 tons register. All the shipbuilding yards in the country capable of handling this class of construction are to be required at once to standardize their methods of construction. If any object to this or decline to enter into shipbuilding contracts on the lines specified, the government will commandeer the yards and itself engage in the work of construction.

The naval consulting board yesterday, after electing Thomas A. Edison as life president of the organization, took up the question of securing an adequate number of small ships as patrol boats for the guarding of harbors against the attacks of submarines. It was decided to recommend to the navy department that a great fleet of wooden motor boats be built at the earliest possible moment, construction of these to be rushed in all the shipbuilding yards available.

DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT HAS A SERIOUS ILLNESS

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) LONDON, March 11.—The Duchess of Connaught, aunt by marriage of King George and mother of the Princess Patricia, patron of the Princess Pat's regiment of Canadians, is seriously ill. She caught the measles and complications, resulting in a severe attack of pneumonia, have resulted.

GENERAL FORBES, ISLAND BORN, PASSES AWAY

A wireless was received by William J. Forbes on Friday of the death in Washington, D. C., of his uncle, General Theodore F. Forbes retired, U. S. Army. General Forbes was born on the island of Hawaii but spent only the early part of his life here. He returned to the islands only once, while on his way to the Philippines about fourteen years ago.

GERMAN VANDALS ARE SENT TO JAIL

Men Who Sunk Steamer 'In the Charleston Harbor Get Terms in the Pen

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

FLORENCE, South Carolina, March 10.—Eight officers of the German steamer Liebenfels, sunk in the Charleston harbor when the United States severed relations with Germany, were today sentenced to serve each a year in the Atlanta federal penitentiary and pay a fine of \$500 each, following their conviction. They were convicted of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream, a violation of the navigation laws. Their counsel noted an appeal.

SMUGGLERS TOO!

PHILADELPHIA, March 10.—Henry Rohrer, president of a wholesale grocery concern and a well-known German-American, was arrested this afternoon in connection with a smuggling scheme involving the crews of the interned German steamers Kronprinz Wilhelm and Prinz Eitel Friedrich. He was released on bail of \$5000 and will have a hearing on Saturday to answer to the charge of violating the customs laws. Two others have also been arrested in the same case.

BERLIN GETS THE NEWS THAT PLEASURES

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.) BERLIN, March 10.—That the German U-boat campaign is getting in much effective work is the declaration by the German admiralty which made a statement today giving results of recent raids.

Nine steamers have been sunk in the Mediterranean and three sailing vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 32,000, the statement says. Among the vessels sent to the bottom were the Britishers Walsford, Trojan, Prince, Burnby, Craigendora and the Italian steamer Morino and the Greek steamer Victoria. An Indian transport ship, the Rosalie, and two armed French vessels are declared to be among the destroyed craft.

BROCKTON, Massachusetts, March 11.—Thirteen thousand shoemakers employed in the local shoe factories were yesterday given a ten per cent increase in their pay, effective on May 1. The increase will add \$1,300,000 to the annual payroll of the shoe manufacturers.